

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on January 3, 2006, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-97 were pending. By this paper, Applicant cancels claims 1-16, 18-26, 48, 52-75, 85, 90 and 94-95. Therefore, claims 17, 27-47, 49-51, 76-84, 86-89, 91-93 and 96-97 are pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Phan for allowing claims 17, 27-48, 49-51, 76-84, 86-89, 91-93, 96 and 97. Applicants have placed claims 86, 87, 89, 91 and 97 into independent form, and cancelled the underlying base claims.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claims 48, 52, 85, 90, 94-95 stand objected to as containing informalities. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant cancels these claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the objections are now moot in view of the above amendments to the claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 53-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant cancels these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot in view of the above amendments to the claims.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

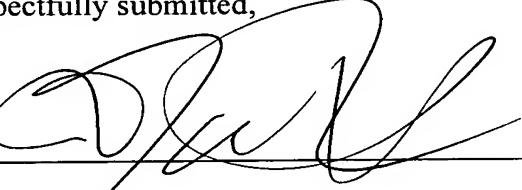
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Phan is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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